

REMARKS

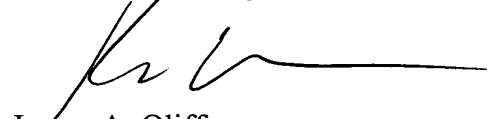
Claims 2, 7, 15 and 17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, 1, 3-6, 8-14, 16 and 18-40 are canceled. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 2, 7, 15 and 17 are allowed. Withdrawn claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, 16 and 18-40 are now canceled. Accordingly, the application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of claims 2, 7, 15 and 17 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:KMM/aaw

Date: December 19, 2003

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